

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 27, as follows.

Please add new Claim 29 as follows.

1.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:

an image input step of entering an image including an object to be extracted;

an outline setup step of setting a closed outline in a predetermined shape which encloses the object to be extracted;

an outline renewal step of renewing said predetermined shape of said closed outline by a predetermined method, wherein said outline renewal step further comprises:

a renewal interval setup step of designating a renewal interval on said outline;

~~a non-renewal interval setup step of designating a non-renewal interval on said~~  
outline;

an outline part renewal step of renewing the shape of said outline at said renewal interval using a predetermined method;

a renewal result display step of displaying the renewed outline by superimposing said renewed outline onto an input image;

an instruction input step of instructing to halt or start the renewal of said outline;

and

an outline output step of outputting the shape of said renewed outline.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) An image processing method comprising:

an image input step of entering an image including an object to be extracted;

an outline setup step of setting a closed outline in a predetermined shape which encloses the object to be extracted;

an outline renewal step of renewing said predetermined shape of said closed outline by a predetermined method, wherein said outline renewal step further comprises:

a renewal interval setup step of designating a renewal interval on said outline or a non-renewal interval setup step of designating a non-renewal interval on said outline;

an outline part renewal step of renewing the shape of said outline at said renewal interval using a predetermined method;

a renewal result display step of displaying the renewed outline by superimposing said renewed outline onto an input image;

an instruction input step of instructing to halt or start the renewal of said outline;

and

an outline output step of outputting the shape of said renewed outline.